

Engine Company No. 18

Address: 3812 Mt. Elliott

Local

State

State Marker

National v 11/29/95



Engine Company No. 18



Historic Overview:

History of the city's fire department began in the years of 1824 and 25 with the purchase of its first fire engine and the establishment of a volunteer company. Between 1858 and 1860 the city developed a professional fire department with a paid staff and the purchase of a steam powered apparatus for projecting water farther than the hand pumped mechanism. In 1867 the state approved the establishment of the Detroit Fire Department headed by a board of fire commissioners. The fire alarm telegraph system was also established in the city that same year.

Engine House No. 18 is the oldest operating fire station in Detroit and the third oldest existing fire station building in the city. It is a two-story late Victorian designed building with red brick walls with red-orange sandstone and salmon colored brick of a for trim. The land on which the building was built was purchased on November 6, 1891 for a cost of \$2100. The building was designed by the Detroit architects Mason & Rice and constructed by Vinton & Co. for \$20,228.14. The building was built in 1892 with a rear addition added in 1949. The dormers located on all the elevations feature decorative wooden cornices with human-looking and stylized faces and serpent or dragonheads. Inside the station are two engine bays, the station office, kitchen, dinning/recreation room and a hose-drying chamber that reaches up to the attic. The second story contains the sleeping quarters, an officer's room, locker room and bathroom¹.

¹ Information obtained from the National Register of Historic Sites Nomination for Engine Co. No. 18.

